

Memorandum

Date: 17 January 2007

From: Wildlife Biologist, FWS, Apalachicola, FL

Subject: Water Management Plan Recommendations for 2007

To: Refuge Manager, FWS, Apalachicola, FL
Complex Manager, FWS, St. Marks, FL
Biologists, FWS, St. Marks, FL

This is a concise management strategy for water level management for this year.

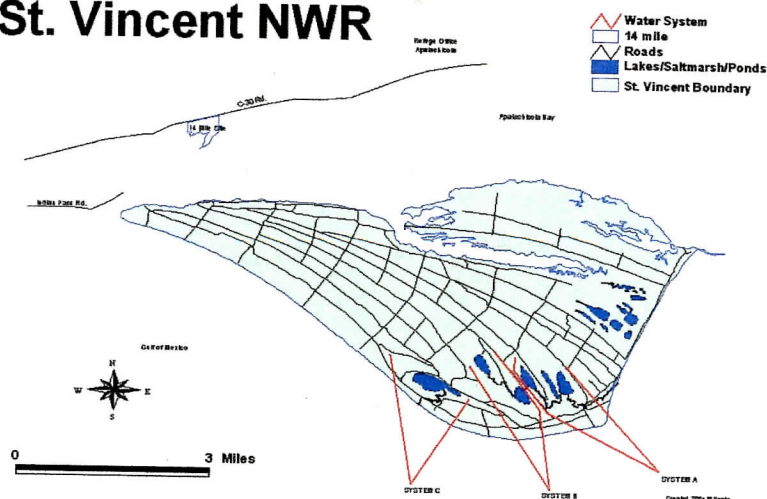
Objectives of the proposed levels for 2007, generally based on Wildlife and Habitat Management Review Report.

System A - Actively manage Lakes 1, 2, and 3 for slightly brackish to intermediate systems with emphasis on very shallow water at key periods for conditions most conducive to shore and wading birds. Focus on maintaining water depths, cover plant species, open mud flats, and food communities for the primary target bird groups. Strive not to exceed 8-15 ppt salinity, but target 5-10ppt as maximum. Use tidal and seasonal rainfall (possibly some gravity flow from Lake 4) to help maintain salinity targets over time. Target for at least 55%-70% open water conditions (not with rank vegetation). Use water control structures to expedite water level manipulation.

System B - Actively manage Lakes 4 and 5 as freshwater systems (< 3ppm salinity) and strive for deeper water conditions (maximum allowable by water control structures). Focus objectives on (a) freshwater for island wildlife, (b) alligator/herp communities, (c) freshwater fish, (d) dabbling ducks and nesting waders (FY 2000-on). Allow slightly lower water levels during growing season to foster moist soil plant growth for waterfowl.

System C - Oyster Pond and Rattlesnake Slough will again be allowed to function naturally by keeping WCS's open and allowing the beach to act as a natural dike seasonally.

St. Vincent NWR



2007 Planned Water Levels			
Month	System A (Full Pool=1.2)	System B (Full Pool=1.6)	System C
January	0.2-0.4	1.5	Self Maintained
February	0.1-0.3	1.5	Self Maintained
March	0.0-0.2	1.5	Self Maintained
April	-0.1-0.1	1.5	Self Maintained
May	0.1-0.3	1.0	Self Maintained
June	0.5-0.7	0.75	Self Maintained
July	1.0-1.2	0.75	Self Maintained
August	1.0-1.2	0.75	Self Maintained
September	0.6-0.8	0.75	Self Maintained
October	0.5-0.7	1.0	Self Maintained
November	0.3-0.5	1.5	Self Maintained
December	0.2-0.4	1.5	Self Maintained